

The Feast of the Ascension, a liturgy for use at home

This short service can be said at any time of day. You may wish to have a candle or lamp lit, and if you use incense at home then you may also wish to light some incense before starting this service.

*If you are saying this service with others then some may wish to say the words in plain type, and others to say the words in italic type. Where words are in **bold type** they are to be said all together.*

O God, make speed to save us.
Lord, make haste to help us.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, Alleluia,
and all that is within me bless his holy name. Alleluia.

Blessed are you, the God of our ancestors,
worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.

Blessed is your holy and glorious name,
worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.

Blessed are you in your holy and glorious temple,
worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.

Blessed are you who look into the depths,
worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.

Blessed are you, enthroned on the cherubim,
worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.

Blessed are you on the throne of your kingdom,
worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.

Blessed are you in the heights of heaven,
worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.

**Glory to God, Source of all being,
Eternal Word, and Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

You may wish to sing this hymn, or to pray the words aloud:

Alleluia, sing to Jesus,
his the sceptre, his the throne;
alleluia, his the triumph,
his the victory alone:
hark, the songs of peaceful Sion
thunder like a mighty flood:
Jesus, out of every nation,
hath redeemed us by his blood.

Alleluia, not as orphans
are we left in sorrow now;
alleluia, he is near us,
faith believes, nor questions how;
though the cloud from sight received him
when the forty days were o'er,
shall our hearts forget his promise,
"I am with you evermore"?

Alleluia, bread of angels,
here on earth our food, our stay;
alleluia, here the sinful
come to you from day to day.
Intercessor, friend of sinners,
earth's redeemer, plead for me,
where the songs of all the sinless
sweep across the crystal sea.

Alleluia, King eternal,
he the Lord of lords we own;
alleluia, born of Mary,
earth his footstool, heaven his throne;
he within the veil has entered
robed in flesh, our great High Priest;
he on earth both priest and victim
in the Eucharistic Feast.

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Psalm 47

Clap your hands, all you peoples;
shout to God with a cry of joy.
*For the Lord Most High is to be feared,
the great sovereign over all the earth,
who subdues the peoples under us
and the nations under our feet;
who chooses our inheritance for us,
the pride of Jacob whom God loves.*
God has gone up with a shout,
with the sound of the ram's-horn.

*Sing praises to God, sing praises;
sing praises to our sovereign, sing praises.*

For God is sovereign of all the earth;
sing praises with all your skill.

*God reigns over the nations
and sits upon the holy throne.*

The nobles of the peoples have gathered together
with the people of the God of Abraham.

The rulers of the earth belong to God,
who is highly exalted.

**Glory to God, Source of all being,
Eternal Word, and Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Reading (Luke 24. 44-53)

Lord, to whom shall we go? Alleluia.
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

During this time of prayer, we especially remember all who have died and passed beyond our sight, until we are reunited with them in God's Kingdom.

Jesus our exalted Lord has been given all authority. Let us seek his intercession that our prayers may be perfected by his prayer.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Jesus Christ, great high priest, living for ever to intercede for us, pray for the Church, your broken body in the world. May we use all the good gifts that you have given to us, our hearts and minds, our creativity and compassion, as we find ways to be Good News to one another in this time of separation.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Jesus Christ, king of righteousness, enthroned at the right hand of the majesty on high, pray for the world, and make it subject to your gentle rule. May those who lead the nations listen to your voice of wisdom and humility, and seek the common good in all their decision making.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Jesus Christ, Son of Man, drawing humanity into the life of God, pray for your brothers and sisters in need, distress or sorrow. We lift to you the cares and concerns of all those affected by coronavirus: those who are ill, and those who care for them; all key workers on whom we rely; those whose jobs and businesses are uncertain; the lonely; all who are afraid. We ask you to surround them with your infinite mercy and grant them all that brings peace.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Jesus Christ, pioneer of our salvation, bringing us to glory through your death and resurrection, surround with your saints and angels those who have died trusting your promises. We hold in our hearts all those who have died recently; we name those whom we know, and we remember those who we do not know, especially those who have nobody to pray for them. Bring comfort and healing to all who are grieving; may they find solace in your presence with them.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Jesus Christ, Lord over all things, ascended far above the heavens and filling the universe, pray for us who receive the gifts you give us for work in your service. Inspire us with your love so that the joy of the first disciples who witnessed your ascension may shine in our lives as a witness to your glory.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Jesus Christ, keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole created order to worship at your feet; for you are alive and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer *is said.*

The heavens are open wide
since Jesus our brother, our Redeemer,
has entered through the veil.
We thank you for his new and living way,
by which we join the unnumbered millions
who are with you forever.
Praise to you our God; you answer prayer. **Amen.**

*O King enthroned on high,
Comforter and Spirit of Truth,
you that are in all places and fill all things,
the treasury of blessings and the giver of life,
come and dwell with us,
cleanse us from every stain
and save our souls, O gracious one. Amen.*

The love of Christ works in us. **Alleluia.**
May he guide us and guard us today and always. Alleluia.